

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

EDDIE L. YOUNG,

No. C 11-01083 SBA (PR)

Plaintiff,

**ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL**

v.

C. J. CHAPMAN, et al.,

Defendants.

Plaintiff has filed a motion for appointment of counsel to represent him in this action (docket no. 19). Plaintiff has also filed a motion entitled, "Plaintiff's Motion for Court Order Requiring Investigation and Appointing Counsel," which the Court construes as another motion for appointment of counsel (docket no. 31).

There is no constitutional right to counsel in a civil case unless an indigent litigant may lose his physical liberty if he loses the litigation. See Lassiter v. Dep't of Soc. Servs., 452 U.S. 18, 25 (1981); Rand v. Rowland, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997) (no constitutional right to counsel in § 1983 action), withdrawn in part on other grounds on reh'g en banc, 154 F.3d 952 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). The court may ask counsel to represent an indigent litigant under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 only in "exceptional circumstances," the determination of which requires an evaluation of both (1) the likelihood of success on the merits, and (2) the ability of the plaintiff to articulate his claims pro se in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved. See id. at 1525; Terrell v. Brewer, 935 F.2d 1015, 1017 (9th Cir. 1991); Wilborn v. Escalderon, 789 F.2d 1328, 1331 (9th Cir. 1986). Both of

1 these factors must be viewed together before reaching a decision on a request for counsel under  
2 § 1915. See id.

3 The Court is unable to assess at this time whether exceptional circumstances exist which  
4 would warrant seeking volunteer counsel to accept a pro bono appointment. The proceedings are at  
5 an early stage and it is premature for the Court to determine Plaintiff's likelihood of success on the  
6 merits. Moreover, Plaintiff has been able to articulate his claims adequately pro se in light of the  
7 complexity of the issues involved. See Agyeman v. Corrs. Corp. of Am., 390 F.3d 1101, 1103 (9th  
8 Cir. 2004). Accordingly, the request for appointment of counsel is DENIED without prejudice.  
9 This does not mean, however, that the Court will not consider appointment of counsel at a later  
10 juncture in the proceedings; that is, after Defendants have filed their dispositive motion such that the  
11 Court will be in a better position to consider the procedural and substantive matters at issue.  
12 Therefore, Plaintiff may file a renewed motion for the appointment of counsel after Defendants'  
13 dispositive motion has been filed. If the Court decides that appointment of counsel is warranted at  
14 that time, it will seek volunteer counsel to agree to represent Plaintiff pro bono.

15 This Order terminates Docket nos. 19 and 31.

16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 DATED: 3/13/12

  
18 SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG  
19 United States District Judge  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 FOR THE  
3 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

4 EDDIE L YOUNG,  
5 Plaintiff,

Case Number: CV11-01083 SBA

6 v.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

7 C J CHAPMAN et al,  
8 Defendant.

9 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District  
10 Court, Northern District of California.

11 That on March 13, 2012, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said  
12 copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said  
13 envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle  
14 located in the Clerk's office.

15 Eddie L. Young H-72370  
16 California Correctional Institution  
17 P.O. Box 1902  
18 Tehachapi, CA 93581

19 Dated: March 13, 2012

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk  
By: Lisa Clark, Deputy Clerk